

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 02792 180624 Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /107 W

----- 097340

R 180610 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0950
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 2792

E. O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, YO, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN SENATE ADMINISTERS DOUBLE REBUFF TO
GOVERNMENT ON INVESTIGATION OF TREATMENT OF
AUSTRALIAN CROATS AND ON ELECTORAL BILL
REF: CANBERRA 2682

1. FOLLOWING FURTHER EXTENDED DEBATE AUSTRALIAN SENATE
MAY 17 VOTED 28 TO 26 TO ESTABLISH SENATE SELECT
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE INTO ALLEGATIONS OF MISTREATMENT
OF AUSTRALIAN CROATS BY AUSTRALIAN POLICE AND QTE AT THE
INSTANCE OR IN THE INTERESTS OF THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT
OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT END QTE. BOTE ESTABLISHING
SLEECT COMMITTEE THUS CANCELS VOTE OF MAY 10, WHEN
SIMILAR MOTION WAS DEFEATED (REFTEL). SENATE ACTION
WAS HUMILIATION FOR GOVERNMENT LEADER IN SENATE, SENATOR
MURPHY, SINCE COMMITTEE IS CLEARLY DIRECTED AGAINST
MURPHY' S ACTIONS DURING PAST TWO MONTHS OR SO.

2. MORE SIGNIFICANT VOTE, IN POLITICAL TERMS, WAS
SENATE REJECTION, BY MARGIN OF 31 TO 27, OF SECOND READING
OF ELECTORAL BILL WHICH WOULD HAVE BEGUN MAJOR RE-
ARRANGEMENT OF AUSTRALIAN VOTING PRACTICES IN FAVOR
OF ALP. ELECTORAL BILL HAS BEEN TERMED MAJOR BILL
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BY GOA, WHOSE DEFEAT COULD LEAD TO DOUBLE DISSOLUTION
AND EARLY ELECTIONS.

3. COMMENT: IN THIS POLITICAL GAME OF BLUFF AND
COUNTER- BLUFF, NEXT STEP IS CLEARLY UP TO GOVERNMENT.
RICE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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